

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

The Official Action rejects Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In particular, the Official Action takes the position that the features "with respect to the longitudinal axis of the vacuum chamber" and "a coolant conduit positioned in a portion of the first space located below the lower end wall for delivering coolant to cool the condensed steam" recited in Claim 1 are not supported in the original specification, and therefore constitute new matter. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

A written description requirement issue generally involves the question of whether the subject matter of a claim is supported by the *disclosure* of an application as filed (MPEP §2163.01). The *disclosure* of an application includes the specification and any drawings. Therefore, possession of the claimed subject matter may be shown by a clear depiction of the invention in detailed drawings (MPEP §2163(II)(A)(3)). Here, the claimed features at issue are clearly depicted in Fig. 1 of the original disclosure as filed. For example, Fig. 1 shows that the vacuum chamber has a longitudinal axis (indicated by a vertical dashed line) and that the first space is centrally positioned in the vacuum chamber with respect to the longitudinal axis. In addition, and by way of example, Fig. 1 shows that the coolant conduit 20 is positioned in a portion of the first space 6 located below the lower end wall 4 for delivering coolant (for example, via apertures 21) to cool the condensed steam shown in the lower part 8 of the first space 6. Thus, the claimed features at issue

here are supported by the original disclosure and do not constitute new matter.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects Claims 1-8 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 7,322,283. The rejection is rendered moot by the attached Terminal Disclaimer.


Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: APRIL 30, 2009

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